



# The E-Gobrecht

## Liberty Seated Collectors Club

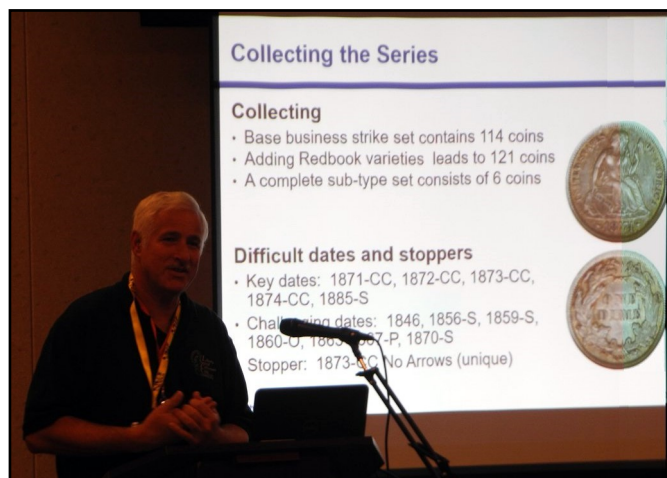
2017 Volume 13, Issue 11  
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(Whole #154)

## LSCC at PAN

The travelling trio, Carl Feldman, John Frost, and Dennis Fortier, represented the Liberty Seated Collectors Club at the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists (PAN) show in Monroeville, PA last month. While staffing a club table, John Frost also gave John gave an educational seminar “Introduction to Liberty Seated Coinage” and a tutorial on counterfeits including the 1872-S Liberty Seated half dollar featured in previous LSCC publications. A few of their photographs are shared below. Thank you gentlemen for dedicating your time, effort, and money in supporting the club.



John Frost at the PAN LSCC regional meeting.



(above left) John Frost on Liberty Seated coinage; (above right) John Frost and Carl Feldman at the club table (Dennis Fortier behind the camera.)

The Curious Collector by Len Augsburger	2
Quarter of the Month by Greg Johnson	4-5
Regional News by Dennis Fortier	6
LSCC Calendar	6
Counterfeit 1875-P 20-cent Piece Surfaces by John Frost	7-9
Auction News by Craig Eberhart	9
Cracked, Shattered, and Terminal	10-11
Free Advertisements	12
LSCC Information	13

The *E-Gobrecht* is an award winning informal electronic publication of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club (LSCC). The LSCC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the attributions of the Liberty Seated Coin series. The LSCC provides the information contained in this email newsletter from various sources free of charge as a general service to the membership and others with this numismatic interest. You do not have to be a LSCC member to benefit from this newsletter; subscription to the *E-Gobrecht* is available to anyone. All disclaimers are in effect as the completeness and/or accuracy of the information contained herein cannot be completely verified. Contact information is included on the last page.



## The Curious Collector

by Len Augsburger, LSCC #1271

### Lessons in Hoarding, #44



1846 Dime, PCGS VF25 CAC. (Images courtesy of Gerry Fortin Rare Coins.)

“I hate 1844 dimes,” Gerry Fortin told me the first time I asked him about the issue. There was nothing at all interesting from a variety point of view – only two varieties were known, one for circulation strikes and another for proofs. Not a lot here for a Liberty Seated dime researcher! Besides that, everyone knew they were hoarded, and everyone knew they were overpriced. I bought the example out of the Jules Reiver sale and, for those willing to look up the coin in the Heritage Archive, you will learn the definition of “buried in a coin.”

The 1844 dime was promoted by numismatic writer Frank C. Ross beginning in 1931, primarily in *Hobbies Magazine*, but also in other publications such as the *Numismatist* and *Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine*. Ross made up a bunch of nonsense about the coin, suggesting they were all lost in a shipwreck, used for love token chains, melted at the Mint, etc. Not a shred of real evidence was presented but the editors printed the articles all the same. Ross died in 1955, but the California collector Terry Brand took up the cause, and eventually accumulated a hoard of over 600 pieces. There were sold piecemeal by Heritage Auctions beginning in 2003 after an unsuccessful attempt to sell the entire group as a single lot.

Everyone always assumed Frank C. Ross also had a stash of 1844 dimes. A recent research find suggests otherwise. While perusing the Newman Portal ([NewmanPortal.org](http://NewmanPortal.org)), I had a “needle in a haystack”

moment. The Portal has digitized over 17,000 documents including a healthy dose of auction catalogs and numismatic periodicals. Even if you owned that many books, it is not likely you would have more than a general idea of what is actually in them. Computers are much better than humans at such things. A search on “Frank C. Ross” yielded this rather interesting result:

**1846 dime.** Same as preceding. Also fine and rare. These are from the Frank C. Ross collection, who bought all that dealer [Burdette] Johnson of St. Louis got in, and hoarded them. The coinage was, of course, the smallest of this type (31,300), and less than half as many as 1844.

This auction lot description comes from a sale catalog issued by M. H. Bolender in October, 1955. Ross died in February of that year, so this must represent part of the estate. Remarkably, there is no group of 1844 dimes in this sale. Other Bolender catalogs of same period don’t list them either. But, we do find three 1846s! This suggests to me that Ross was not the numismatic dreamer we made him out to be. He was hoarding a legitimately scarce coin and at the same time diverting his fellow collectors by publicly pumping the 1844 instead. This is numismatic duplicity well practiced – not only do you not reveal the coin you are hoarding, but you actively throw the scent in another direction. Thanks to Mr. Bolender’s auction catalog and the Newman Portal, there is a new twist to the story of the 1844 dime.



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## Quarter of the Month

by Greg Johnson, LSCC #1460

### The Case of the Missing Proof Quarter Dollar

I have never owned a proof Liberty Seated quarter dollar. Despite an impressive, or depressing depending on your perspective, accumulation of business strikes I have just never met the right coin at the right price to end up purchasing a proof issue. This seemed about to change a few months ago when I spotted the Gene Gardner 1862 PR66-CAC in an online auction; the day before close the bid was still less than \$3,000. So I placed a bid and ended up winning the coin for just under \$4,800 with juice and shipping.

I had the coin shipped to my PO Box where it arrived on a Friday. I was out of town at a weekend work meeting (which are a quite standard feature of my business). The online tracking indicated the package was “undeliverable as addressed.” Having been a long time customer with a PO Box, I have the phone number for the post office. I called twice during breaks in my meeting and got no answer despite letting it ring up to 50 times on each attempt. I tried calling again on Saturday during meeting breaks with the same result. Then, at the end of the day on Saturday the online tracking indicated that someone with my last name but a different first initial had signed for the package on Saturday afternoon.

I took Monday morning off work and went to the Post Office when they opened. My worst fears were realized when it became apparent that: a) the package was not there; b) it had been correctly addressed to me; and c) a person I did not know had physically walked into the Post Office, signed for, and left with my package. It had not been insured through



the post office so they were unaware of its value. When I told the postal supervisor what was in it a panic scene worthy of F-Troop ensued. I spent a good portion of that Monday on the phone with the postal supervisor, post office customer service, and the postal inspector's office.

My personal experience with the post office as an organization was that the customer service office was polite and professional, and the postal inspectors themselves were reasonable and communicated quite clearly. However, those two contacts were the exception; every other postal employee seemed to have the singular objective of getting me to go away and quit bothering them as quickly and quietly as possible.

My phone call with the postal supervisor late on that first Monday was an epic of two people carrying on conversations with themselves, but within earshot of each other. He was breathless and panicky and was talking over me to address what he expected me to say and expected me to be worried about without listening for one second to what I was actually saying and what I was actually worried about. I made my best effort to calm him down and get my message across, but his ears were apparently completely disengaged. I did manage to extract an assurance from him that he would call me on Tuesday with an update on his effort to go to the street address of the person who had signed for my package and retrieve it. I never heard from him again. To this day I have not been able to reach him. His phone continues to ring and ring and ring.

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Six days after the package was “delivered” and four days after I had appeared at the post office to file a complaint AND called customer service, I spoke to the postal inspector investigating the theft for the first time. He said the recipient had told the supervisor that he never received the package. When the postal inspector approached him and pointed out that appearing at the post office in person and signing your real name while on surveillance camera automatically disqualifies you as a criminal mastermind, he changed his story to “pawned it.” The postal inspectors office and customer service both asked that I not file a complaint with police. The postal inspectors would handle it. I passed this information on to the seller. They provided me the paperwork to initiate a claim against their insurance.

Nothing continued to happen for six more days. I then got a call from the postal inspector saying that the thief had initially agreed to cooperate and it had appeared the coin might be recovered, but at the last minute, despite having confessed to selling the coin, he changed his mind and now refused to talk to the postal inspectors. The inspector requested that I file a complaint with local police.

The next day I called the local police and discovered that the only way I could file a report was to dial 9-1-1 and have an officer come to my house. That seemed like an odd procedure, but I went ahead and had an officer come to my house only to find out that the post office is not in the same borough as my house and a different police department had jurisdiction. So, the complaint the inspectors asked me to file required that I physically go to the police station in a neighboring borough and file the report. The officer there was pleasant and professional, but baffled as to why a federal law enforcement agency (the postal inspectors) would turn a theft from a post office over to local law enforcement. The police report was filed exactly two weeks after the theft.

My next contact regarding the theft of the coin occurred 23 days after the theft when a police detective and an investigator for the insurance company, which had already refunded my money, called me on the

same day. I was pretty much at this point just repeating information that I had included in the police report, had provided to the seller, or had been provided to me by the postal inspectors.

The case made its way to criminal court and as the person who filed the complaint, I received copies of all the hearing notices. I had explained to the police that I was not out any money and was just participating in all this as a courtesy to the people with whom I was doing business. I had initially, and briefly, held out hope the coin might be recovered but after two weeks or so was just finishing what I started out of sense of obligation to seller and insurance company. Nonetheless, the notices eventually turned into a subpoena to appear in court as a witness. Proving yet again that no good deed goes unpunished.

The day in court was 117 days after the coin went missing from the post office. Spending the morning in criminal court was a mind bending experience from which I conclude the following: 1) we have lost the war on drugs, it was never even close; 2) being poor is apparently illegal, it was shocking how many people are going to jail for want of money in the amounts of \$200 - \$1000; and 3) I simply cannot understand how one person can get arrested FOUR times for driving without a license.

I ended up meeting with the detective and the assistant district attorney, but did not see the defendant. They had established that he had no money with which to repay the insurance company; or with which to pay any punitive damages. The only way I could see that he was punished would be to escalate the case to the county court. In other words punishing him would require that I also punish myself and miss work to go sit in another courtroom. I declined to do that.

The coin is gone. The person who stole it has suffered only inconvenience as a consequence. If there is a moral or message to this story I am not sure what it is, but I bet it is really cynical.



## Regional News

by Dennis Fortier, LSCC #2016

The Northeast Region is in the middle of the fall season rush. PAN last week followed by Manchester and Fall Baltimore. Many club members will hopefully make the effort to be at one or more of these

fine East Coast shows.

Carl Feldman, John Frost, and Dennis Fortier made the trek to Pittsburg for the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists (PAN) show. A first time joint club table and meeting with the BCCS at PAN. A whole new group of members and potential new members experienced the advantages of LSCC membership. One member returned to the club at PAN and two new members signed up, overall a success for a first time LSCC appearance at PAN. The PAN people do an excellent job running a show and they made us feel very welcome.

John gave an educational seminar (Introduction to Liberty Seated Coinage) on Friday to a nice crowd of 15, and at the meeting on Saturday he gave a tutorial on counterfeits including the 1872-S Liberty Seated half dollar that fooled three of the major grading services.

For something different, the LSCC crew visited Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburg to join the CMU Astronomy Club (John Frost was a past presi-

dent of the club) in some star gazing on Friday night; a nice bunch of kids. From looking at coins up close to looking at stars light years away, a clear case of extremes.

November 3-4 brings the Manchester (NH) Coin Expo. John Frost will be giving an educational presentation on Trade Dollars at the meeting (Saturday November 4, 2 PM). Joe Casazza, Northeast Regional Director, will host the club table Friday and Saturday.

The Fall Whitman Baltimore Coin Expo November 9-11 finishes the trifecta of East Coast shows. Joe Casazza hosts the club table for the first time in Baltimore. The club dinner at M & S Grille will be Thursday night 6:30 PM as usual. It is a chance to enjoy the fellowship of other club members, talk coins, and do what coin collectors do well...eat! The club meeting will be Friday at 9 AM in meeting room 301. John Frost will give a talk titled "Carson City Issues of Liberty Seated Coinage" at the meeting. Baltimore is the high point of the fall coin season on the East Coast, don't miss it.

Plans are already in the works for the January FUN show in Florida; time to start making your plans to attend.

Plans are already in the works for the January FUN show in Florida; time to start making your plans to attend.

### LSCC Calendar

Early-November 2017. *Gobrecht Journal* Issue #130 will be postal mailed to all current LSCC members.

November 3-4, 2017. **LSCC Educational Program, Club Table, and Regional Meeting. Manchester, NH.** New Hampshire Coin & Currency Expo, Radisson Hotel, 700 Elm Street. John Frost will be giving a talk on Trade Dollars at the club's regional meeting on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM. Joe Casazza, Northeast Regional Director, will host the club table Friday and Saturday.

December 31, 2017. Deadline for paying your annual membership dues. A renewal form is included with the *Gobrecht Journal* issue #130 mailing.

Note: See the LSCC website ([www.lscweb.org](http://www.lscweb.org)) for information on additional upcoming coin show club activities.



## Counterfeit 1875-P 20-cent Piece Surfaces

by John Frost, LSCC #2005

Ever since the new 1875-P twenty-cent die marriage (BF-3) was discovered earlier this year (see *Gobrecht Journal* #129, Summer 2017), I have been looking at every 1875-P twenty-cent piece I come across, so far without success.

Last month, I saw a coin listed on eBay that had only fair photos but it looked like it could be the new BF-3. It was being sold as raw, as it was actually encapsulated in an NCGS (National Coin Grading Service) holder. It looked like it could be cleaned but it was hard to tell. I corresponded with the seller, and it did come with a return privilege, so I went for it, and was the winning bidder.

The coin arrived promptly, and immediately I knew something was very wrong. With the unaided eye, it looked like a harshly cleaned coin, but with even a 4x magnifier, it was much, much, worse. My immediate conclusion was that the coin was actually a cast counterfeit, with all the tell-tale signs:

- Lack of sharpness in every feature, despite all of the detail present
- Many pits and depressions but not looking like environmental damage
- A couple blobs of excess metal
- Ill-formed stars and shield lines
- Poor denticles.



Counterfeit 1875-P Twenty-cent Piece

The coin did not match any known obverse or reverse dies. Plus, unfortunately, because the coin was in an NCGS holder (a snap-together cheapie glued shut, with a foam insert), I could not weigh the piece, nor could I get a good look at the edge. But I really didn't need to. See the following images of this concoction, with the captions hopefully being self-explanatory.

Numerous depressions are found all over the granular surfaces, and don't look like typical pits from corrosion, noting the weak denticles and letters not

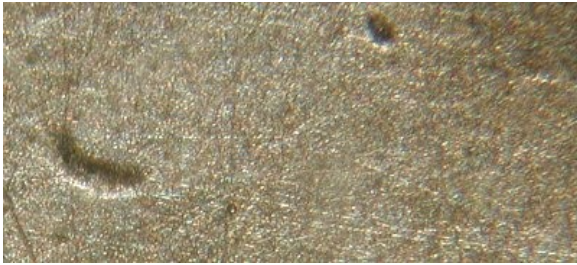
sharp as would be expected.



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**Depressions and weak details.**

Other depressions are from hits on the host coin, but show no sign of metal movement (normally seen with shiny texture at the hits).



**No metal movement on sizable hits.**

The stars on the obverse are made of up six somewhat diamond-shaped components, whereas the counterfeit includes a couple deformed stars that are made up of teardrop-shaped pieces. Compare the counterfeit's star with the genuine in the following photos.



**Stars: Counterfeit (left), genuine (right).**

Extra metal blobs can be found in a couple places, such as on the star shown below.



**Additional metal blob on teardrop star.**

The lines in the shield show poor definition and irregularities as shown in photo below.



In addition, next to the arrow feather on the reverse, minor die cracks can sometime form, as seen on this first photo of a genuine 1875-P BF-1. In the second photo (the counterfeit), someone mistakenly thought the die crack was a poorly transferred part of the design, and re-engraved or strengthened it on the mold.

(Continued at bottom of next page)



## Auction News

by Craig Eberhart, LSCC #1348

There was only one major auction this month: the **Regency Auction XXIII** by Legend Rare Coin Auctions held on October 26, 2017 at the PCGS Members Only Show in Philadelphia, PA. All coins in this synopsis were graded by PCGS. A number of better date Liberty Seated coins were sold including the finest known 1840-O dime graded MS65 CAC for \$37,600. This dime had previously been part of the Eugene Gardner Collection. An 1860-S quarter in VF25 brought \$4,935 and an 1873-CC trade dollar in AU53 sold for \$2,467. However, the most interesting group of Liberty Seated coins may have been the EF and AU Liberty Seated dollars as follows:

1840	AU55 CAC	\$2,702.
1841	AU58 CAC	\$2,820.
1841	AU55 CAC	\$1,762.
1843	AU55 CAC	\$1,645.
1845	AU55 CAC	\$2,173.
1850	AU58 CAC	\$5,170.
1854	AU58 CAC	\$7,931.
1861	EF40	\$2,232.
1862	EF45	\$3,172.
1869	AU55 CAC	\$1,586.

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**Minor die crack on genuine coin (top)  
Mistakenly re-engraved (bottom).**

So, this piece could not really be anything but a counterfeit. The seller did accept the return as promised but I am still looking for the new BF-3.

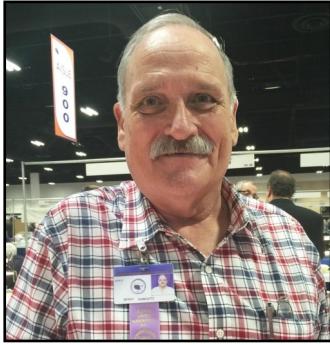
To put a final insult to this particular counter-

feit, as can be seen in the photo below, a human hair, presumed to be that of the NCGS grader, is actually encapsulated *inside the slab* between the obverse of the coin and the plastic!



**Human hair loose inside the slab.**

Although I have not examined them in person, I have seen two other suspicious coins in similar NCGS holders, representing a second 1875-P and an 1875-CC. Be on the lookout for more of these. I would be interested in hearing about any others – please send any details to [info@doubledimes.com](mailto:info@doubledimes.com). Thanks!



## Cracked, Shattered, and Terminal by Benny Haimovitz, LSCC #2494

### 1843 “Other” Shattered Reverse Half Dime



1843 appears to be a Cardinal Year for Liberty Seated shattered reverse coinage and the half dime denomination is certainly no exception. Perhaps one of the most interesting is that described as the 1843 ‘other’ (unnumbered by Valentine) by Stephen A. Crain in his superb “The 1843 Shattered Reverse Half Dimes” article in Volume 41.2 (Spring 2015), Issue #122 of the *Gobrecht Journal*.

His definitive reverse die state progression images of the 1843 “other” Shattered Reverse half dime amazingly reveal the following (enlarged image of the reverse on the facing page):

First to appear is the large die crack from K-12, through the L in HALF, M in DIME, leaves in the lower right wreath exiting at K-5.

Second die crack to appear is from the rim at K-2 through the left side of the M in AMERICA and the LF in HALF, intersecting with the first die crack at the L.

Third die crack forms at K-9 through T in UNITED across leaves and to DIM of DIME, intersecting with the first die crack at M, while a fourth die crack starts at the first S in STATES and crosses the wreath leaves to the HA in HALF, intersecting with the first die crack at the L.

The final result being the amazing “Five Piece Pie Reverse” of the 1843 “Other” Half Dime!

Die state diagnostics and progression courtesy the dedicated work of Stephen A. Crain. Images



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**Wanted to Buy.** Collector of Liberty Seated Dollars wants engraved and/or counter-stamped (love tokens) or rotated reverses. All mints, any condition, holed OK. Carl Feldman: [carlscoins@gmail.com](mailto:carlscoins@gmail.com) or (973) 479-9956.

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**Dr. Eugene Bruder** is constantly updating his website, [www.typecoins.com](http://www.typecoins.com), which features a nice selection of bust and seated material for sale. You can reach him at 402-475-0350 or email at: [gene@typecoins.com](mailto:gene@typecoins.com).

**Seeking 1839 Gobrecht Dollar.** Prefer 45-60 condition,

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**Rotated Reverse Seated Dimes Wanted.** I am looking for rotated reverse Liberty Seated dimes. Any interested parties can email Jason Feldman at [jason@seated.org](mailto:jason@seated.org)

**Brian Greer**, well known dealer, collector, and numismatist, has an extensive listing of many new dates and varieties listed on his website. Check them out at: <http://www.briangreerrarecoins.com/>.

**Liberty Seated Dime Die Varieties Wanted.** I am paying high prices for Seated Dimes with major cuds, die cracks, and rotated reverses. Contact David Thomas at [davethomas333@hotmail.com](mailto:davethomas333@hotmail.com) or 1-714-872-2772.

**Large Selection of Gobrecht, Seated & Trade Dollars to be offered at ANA at Table 435.** W. David Perkins, LSCC #790, will have a large selection Gobrecht, Seated and Trade Dollars for sale at the 2017 ANA Convention at Table 435. Many better dates and mint marks. Contact Dave at [wdperki@attglobal.net](mailto:wdperki@attglobal.net), visit my website at [www.davidperkinsrarecoins.com](http://www.davidperkinsrarecoins.com), or phone 303-902-5366.

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## **LSCC Mission**

**To encourage, promote, and dispense numismatic knowledge of the Liberty Seated coins; to cultivate fraternal relations among its members and all those interested in the science of numismatics.**

**LSCC website: [www.lscweb.org](http://www.lscweb.org)**

**LSCC email address: [lscweb@lscweb.org](mailto:lscweb@lscweb.org)**

**LSCC Membership Information.** Dues are bargain priced at \$25 per year and include three issues of the *Gobrecht Journal*, an award winning numismatic publication. To join the Liberty Seated Collectors Club, for *Gobrecht Journal* mailing address changes, or for other membership questions, correspond with the LSCC Secretary/Treasurer.

**Articles, comments, or advertisements for publication in the *Gobrecht Journal* may be addressed to the LSCC Publications Editor.**

**Information, input, comments, or suggestions for improvements to this *E-Gobrecht* are actively solicited from anyone and may be sent to the LSCC Publications Editor.**

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### ***Wanted: Material for this newsletter!***

*Please consider submitting something for print. It need not be elaborate; it can be something as simple as a short note on your favorite variety, neat find, nice cherry pick, happenings at a coin show, rare Liberty Seated coinage coming up for auction, etc. If you are interested in it, rest assured, others will be too! Sharing information is a goal of this newsletter and you need not be an experienced or famous writer to submit something. This is a continuing plea.*

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